

San Diego DX Club Bulletin

August 2018



AUGUST PROGRAM

DXING AND CONTESTING FROM THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

BY: MIKE BINDER, NA6MB

MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2018

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,

San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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From the Prez . . .

Ron, WB1EAZ



It's getting to the end of summer and hopefully the bands will come alive this fall. Summer in a solar minimum is really tough with lack of activity and poor propagation. Most of the contacts that I have worked over the past month or so have been on FT8. After Eric's 6 Meter Sporadic E presentation at our last meeting, I worked my first JA on 6M FT8. I thought the 6M program by Eric was very educational, well done, and a great job considering the tight time constraints.

This past weekend, I drove with my granddaughter up to the Southern California DX Club DX Bash in La Habra. Thanks to hosts, Kris, KC6TOD and Vince, N6VNI for great food, great weather, and great friends. It was great seeing all those attending including quite a few from San Diego. The traffic from San Diego to Carlsbad was very slow but we finally made it. My granddaughter and I spent some time talking with Arnie, N6HC, about Bouvet, Ducie Island, and Baker Island. I have been trying to get her interested, which she is, but as a high school freshman, her social and academic activities call for her attention. Arnie gave her a little pep talk and we will see. It was interesting that Arnie noted that more than 600 unique calls were worked on FT8 from Baker. In other words, quite a few stations with minimal equipment setups were able to work a new one. Arnie is looking forward to visiting our club with this story of Baker Island. So keep tuned for a great presentation.

On the subject of FT8, I note that Roly, as A35RR has complained that many are calling him on his own frequency and calling "out of sequence". Ops may want to review ZL2IFB's FT8 operating guide at <http://www.g4ifb/FT8> Hinson tips of HF DXer.pdf.

Have fun and enjoy

Ron, WB1EAZ

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

Meeting Minutes, July 25, 2018

At 6:30 pm Ron Richards, WB1EAZ called the meeting to order. 31 members and five guests were in attendance. Our guests were: Ashley Gruff (Eric's daughter), Kris Jacob, KC6TOD, George Jacob, N6VNI, Joe Loughlin, KE6PHB, and Bill Zears, W6SAN.



Old business – The June minutes and Treasurer Report were approved.

New business – The board is looking into club shirts.

At 6:39 pm we started the roundtable discussion.

At 7:16 pm we took a break.

At 7:31 pm Eric Gruff,, NC6K gave a presentation titled "Understanding Sporadic-E Propagation on 6 Meters".

At 8:54 pm the meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

Income for July:	\$2,500.00 for Visalia 2018.
Expenses for July:	None
Statement Balance on 7/31/2018	\$8,525.28

Randy, KQ6RS

VP Report

Ron, N6XT

Your VP is currently moving, so the VP Report is a bit thin this month. However, Mike, NA6MB will be our guest speaker this month talking about his and Gail's, K6GO Contesting and DXing from the Cayman Is.



73,

Ron, N6XT

THE SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON DIGITAL

8/18	8/17	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	K0XB	40	324	329	329	+1
2.	2.	NN6K	40	324	325	326	-
3.	3.	N7CW	39	265	266	311	-
4.	4.	K6XT	40	274	283	308	-
5.	7.	NA6L	32	263	263	269	+26
6.	5.	WB6BFG	40	253	254	266	-
7.	6.	W6YOO	38	255	260	260	-
8.	8.	WN6K	40	212	213	247	+8
9.	9.	K6ZH	39	191	191	219	-
10.	10.	K5OA	22	174	175	204	-

Our champ, Rick, K0XB pulls a bit further ahead this time, but the big news is the 26 point jump by NA6L moving him up two places. FT8 been "berry berry good" to John.. There are plenty of new ones out there for the rest of us, so give the digital modes a try. Digital is becoming more popular all the time. The advent of FT8 has really ignited a surge of interest. The old 60 WPM baudot RTTY mode is now heard mostly only on contest weekends.

New software from Joe Taylor is being introduced all the time. MMTTY is a good one for RTTY contesting with Wintest or N1MM and a sound blaster card, but now I'm hearing good things about a new decoder called "2Tone". Most of the expeditions are now doing a fair amount of RTTY and FT8 for The Deserving. We'll be looking for many more entries next year in this fun but under-represented category.

Each month, we will publish a top ten list for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, phone and CW. Please send me your totals for each band and mode throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

John, K6AM



The WRTC (World Radiosport Team Championships) was held in Germany in July during the IARU contest. 2014 champions were Dan Craig, N6MJ, who is living in Fullerton and Chris Hurlbut, KL9A of Bozeman Mt. Dan is the nephew of long time SDDXC member, Rick Craig, N6ND (sk). Dan and Chris won the third place bronze medal this year. Way to go again guys!

The boys came down to San Diego for Field Day at John, K6AM's QTH to test their gear and get revved up for the big event. Here are Dan and Chris in John's shack with a pair of Icom 7851 radios crankin' out the FD Q's. We were joined by Tim, N6WIN, with a drop-in from radiosport champ-in-training, Axel, KI6RRN.

From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



5 Band WAZ—The Hard Way!

To all my fellow 5 Band (or 6 Band or 7 Band) WAZ award holders, I offer my congratulations. Well done!

Back in the early 1980's, I was greatly impressed by the 5B WAZ Award hanging on K9AJ's shack wall. I knew from that moment that I wanted one!

I'm sure many of my fellow SDDXC members have had similar thoughts. You sure do need to set a goal—and stick to it—to win these CQ awards!

I'm sure my story isn't too different from that of fellow Club members, but I thought some might get kick of a fellow Member's story of how the 5B WAZ plaque ended up on my wall.

Whose idea was the WAZ in the first place? We do not know. An educated guess would be the idea first was created by W6QX, a man of many ideas, who thought it up and assigned the project to a group of fellow hams. We do know that the first map was then drawn up by Mr. Bowelle. Unfortunately, the true origin of the WAZ idea remains lost to time.

As near as I can tell, there are 973 current 5B WAZ holders. There are several thousand additional DXers active in the hunt who have not yet hit the 200 zone mark. So over the years since the award was announced in 1979, there have not been a ton of awards issued. Anyway, it's a slog.

To get started, I needed some new antennas. I was OK on 20 with a 4-element monobander, but I needed antennas for 80/40/15/10 meters. I put up small monobanders on 10 and 15 and added inverted V's for 40 and 75/80. I added traps to the 80 meter V so it could also cover 75. All hung from the top of the 70 foot tower (antenna support structure).

The most memorable QSOs were:

1. Zone 34 on 80 meters. I chased and caught 5A0A on CW using a Meissner Signal Shifter as a transmitter with a straight key, a random wire antenna and who knows what receiver. Almost non-existent signal, very raspy and buzzy. I was shocked when the QSL showed up!
2. Zone 22 on 80. I worked VU2NBT during the CQ WW CW contest. He was at my noise level, but popped above the noise for no more than 10 seconds. Nailed him. But I was surprised to make the QSO because of the short window. I knew that Bob's QSL manager was WA4FVT with whom he had a schedule on 20 meter SSB to pass QSO/call sign information along. I listened in, heard my call and went for a cocktail Nice.

3. One of my favorite memories. Worked K9AJ/8Q7 on 80 CW. I knew the resort at which Mike was staying on the island so I looked their FAX number up on the internet and sent Mike a FAX of my QSL card for the QSO. I received a card in return (via the mail, not via FAX). Now, every time I see Mike, he mentions that the hotel charged him \$US30.00 for the FAX. Oooops! Sorry, Mike. H's been reminding me of that for almost 30 years.

4. BY9GA, zone 23 on 10 meters was an exciting catch. Not many zone 23 BY9's were around then and there are few around today.

5. I chased Dr. Sid, ST2SA in zone 34 for a long time. Zone 34 was the last one I needed on 10 meters, so I was particularly interested in putting him in the log. I had rigged up a "home repeater" to relay 2 meter DX repeater spots to me via a Motorola voice pager I had modified to operate on 2 meters. I was in the shower when the spot came in. I half dried off, ran down the stairs to the shack and worked him 10 meter WAZ, done.

I'll suggest that earning 5B WAZ is hard today even with spotting networks. We didn't have that luxury when I was working on the award.

So just a short note this month. Time to enjoy the waining days of August and summer. The kids around here went back to school on August 6 and the UT freshmen are moving in. Fall is coming.

The TVA lowers the lake level for the winter in anticipation of more precipitation. But since many of us like to cruise down to Neyland Stadium on the shores of the Tennessee River to "tailgate" (boats don't have tailgates, but you get the idea) they always wait to drop the water level until the last U of T game is finished. Coming soon.

Good DX (what little there is of it).

Bob, K9RHY